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EXAMINER
RILEY, MARCUS T

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/799,010	UCHIDA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MARCUS T. RILEY	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>January 31, 2008</u>.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-12,14,15 and 17-21</u> is/are pending in the application.
  4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>3,16,22 and 23</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-12, 14-15 & 17-21</u> is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>11 March 2004</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
    1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/19/2006, 05/02/2006</u>.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   This office action is responsive to applicant's remarks received on January 31, 2008. **Claims 1-12, 14-15 & 17-21** remain pending and **claims 13, 16, 22 & 23** have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to amended **claims 1, 14, 15, 17 & 18** filed on January 31, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A: Applicant's Remarks

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 18-20, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki") (US 2004/0008363 A1) in combination with Mizuki (US 5,623,675) (as noted above, Applicants have herein canceled claims 22 and 23). As will be explained in more detail below, the combination of Suzuki and Mizuki would not have rendered the subject matter defined in independent claims 1 and 18, as amended herein, obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1 and 18 to include the features specified in original claim 16. As defined in amended claims 1 and 18, the claimed subject includes a duplication process module. In response to a duplication instruction with specification of a print job under creation, the duplication process module duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a new print job

under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into the information storage module.

As recognized by the Examiner, neither the Suzuki reference nor the Mizuki reference discloses or suggests a duplication process module as specified in amended claims 1 and 18. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuki and Suzuki as applied against claim 1, and further in view of Terada et al. ("Terada") (US 7,055,150 B2). To the extent that the obviousness rejection of claim 16 might be considered applicable to amended claims 1 and 18, Applicants respond as follows.

The Terada reference discloses a printer system for installing printer firmware to a printer through a network. As stated in the Terada reference, "[t]he printer according to the present invention functions printing data onto a print medium, the media can be one of separate form, continuous form or duplication form." Column 15, lines 11-13. Relative to the claimed subject matter, however, the Terada reference does not disclose or suggest the feature of duplicating a registered image corresponding to a print job. As such, even if the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references were to be combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the subject matter defined in present claims 1 and 18 would not have resulted. Thus, the combination of the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references would not have rendered the subject matter defined in present claims 1 and 18 obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1 and 18, as amended herein, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references. Claims 4-8, 10, and 11, each of which ultimately depends from claim 1, and claims 19 and 20, each of which depends from claim 18, are likewise patentable under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) over the combination of the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding the applicable independent claim.

Dependent Claims

Each of dependent claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 21 ultimately depends from either claim 1 or claim 18. In the Office Action, each of the above-listed dependent claims was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mizuki and Suzuki, and further in view of various secondary references including Yokoyama (US 7,126,719 B2), Shiota et al. (US 6,324,521 B1), and Terada. Neither the Yokoyama reference nor the Shiota et al. reference cures the above-discussed deficiencies of the combination of the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references relative to the subject matter defined in present claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 21 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Mizuki and Suzuki, and further in view of one or more of Yokoyama, Shiota et al., and Terada for at least the reason that each of these claims depends from either claim 1 or claim 18.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1-12, 14, 15, and 17-21, as presented herein, and submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6902. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ITECP008).

A: Examiner's Response

Examiner has reconsidered the rejection of claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 18-20, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki") (US 2004/0008363 A1) in combination with Mizuki (US 5,623,675). **Claims 1-12, 14-15 & 17-21** remain pending and **claims 13, 16, 22 & 23** have been cancelled. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended **claims 1, 14, 15, 17 & 18** filed on January 31, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As will be explained in more detail below, the combination of Suzuki, Mizuki and Terada have rendered the subject matter defined in independent claims 1 and 18, as amended herein, obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Relative to the claimed subject matter, the Terada reference does disclose or suggest the feature of duplicating a registered image corresponding to a print job. Terada '150 discloses a duplication process module that, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of a print job under creation, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module (*"...the printer 4 reports the information on the guarantee range against an inquiry from the installation tool 60, thus a continued installation becomes possible. The printer according to the present invention functions printing data onto a print medium, the media can be one of separate form, continuous form or duplication form. Further, as storage 22 for storing the printer firmware, it is possible to use non-volatile storage equipment other than the hard disk, such as a flash memory. In regard to the check data, it is also possible to apply other block data check schemes than the above-mentioned sum check scheme. Moreover, the check data for checking the*

guarantee range of the received firmware may also be used for the reception completion check."
column 15, lines 8-21). Thus, the combination of the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references
renders the subject matter defined in present claims 1 and 18 obvious to one having ordinary skill
in the art.

Accordingly independent claims 1 and 18, as amended, are not patentable under 35
U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references. Claims 4-8,
10, and 11, each of which ultimately depends from claim 1, and claims 19 and 20, each of which
depends from claim 18, are also not patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of
the Mizuki, Suzuki, and Terada references for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding
the applicable independent claim.

Each of dependent claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 21 ultimately depends from either
claim 1 or claim 18. Applicant's arguments with respect to dependent claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 14, 15,
17 and 21 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In view of the foregoing, Examiner has fully considered the Applicant's arguments with
respect to amended **claims 1, 14, 15, 17 & 18** filed on January 31, 2008, but they are not
persuasive and submits that these claims are not in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

4.   **Claims 1 & 18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuki (US 5,623,675 hereinafter, Mizuki '623) in combination with Suzuki et al. (US 2004/0008363 A1 hereinafter, Suzuki '363), and further in view of Terada '150 (US 7,055,150 B2 hereinafter, Terada '150).

   Regarding claim 1; Mizuki '675 discloses a print job creation apparatus that creates a print job to print an image, said print job creation apparatus comprising: discloses an information storage module that stores information (*"data storing means for temporarily storing data associated with a first job currently being dealt with..."* column 2, lines 1-2); an interruption process module that, in response to an interruption command received in the middle of creation of a print job, stores the print job in the middle of its creation as a print job under creation into said information storage module and makes ready for creation of a new print job (*"...the interruption control means, in response to the reception of the interruption request, halts the first job currently being dealt with. Then, the interruption function control means stores necessary data associated with the first job currently being dealt with in the data storing means. Then, after the second job associated with the interruption request has been finished, the interruption function control means again reads the data associated with the first job, which data was stored in the data storing means at the time of the receipt of the interruption request. Then, the read data is used for carrying out the first job which was dealt before the reception of the interruption request."* column 2, lines 11-22).

   Mizuki '675 does not expressly disclose a resumption process module that, in response to a resumption command to resume interrupted creation of a print job under creation, reads the

print job under creation from said information storage module and resumes an original state when the interruption command was received, so as to make ready for continuing creation of the print job under creation.

Suzuki '863 disclose a resumption process module that, in response to a resumption command to resume interrupted creation of a print job under creation, reads the print job under creation from said information storage module and resumes an original state when the interruption command was received, so as to make ready for continuing creation of the print job under creation (*"...there is provided a job processing device which sequentially executes jobs for which processing requests were accepted, the job processing device comprising: first queuing means for sequentially storing jobs for which processing requests were accepted; second queuing means for sequentially storing jobs whose processing is to be interrupted from among the jobs stored in the first queuing means; queue control means which moves the job stored in the first queuing means from the first queuing means to the second queuing means in response to a job processing interruption request and moves the jobs stored in the second queuing means from the second queuing means to the first queuing means in response to a job resumption request; and job execution means for sequentially executing the jobs stored in the first queuing means."* page 6, paragraph 0059).

Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"...object of the present invention is to provide a job scheduling device capable of easily modifying attribute information by reducing a user's burden, a drop in the efficiency of use of a network, and print waiting time even if the attribute information is erroneously specified."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0059).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675 by adding a resumption process module that, in response to a resumption command to resume interrupted creation of a print job under creation, reads the print job under creation from said information storage module and resumes an original state when the interruption command was received, so as to make ready for continuing creation of the print job under creation as taught by Suzuki '863.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait (*"...to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0043).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675 with Suzuki '863 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 does not expressly disclose a duplication process module that, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of a print job under creation, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module.

Terada '150 discloses a duplication process module that, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of a print job under creation, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a new print job under creation at a

stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module (*"...the printer 4 reports the information on the guarantee range against an inquiry from the installation tool 60, thus a continued installation becomes possible. The printer according to the present invention functions printing data onto a print medium, the media can be one of separate form, continuous form or duplication form. Further, as storage 22 for storing the printer firmware, it is possible to use non-volatile storage equipment other than the hard disk, such as a flash memory. In regard to the check data, it is also possible to apply other block data check schemes than the above-mentioned sum check scheme. Moreover, the check data for checking the guarantee range of the received firmware may also be used for the reception completion check."* column 15, lines 8-21).

Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 are combinable with Terada '150 because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"The present invention relates to a printer and a printer system to which firmware is installed in network environment..."* Terada '150 at column 1, lines 8-10).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 by adding a duplication process module that, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of a print job under creation, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module as taught by Terada '150.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a printer system and a method

for installing a printer firmware automatically even though an operator does not recognize the

installation (*"It is another object of the present invention to provide a printer, a printer system*

and a method for installing a printer firmware automatically even though an operator does not

recognize the installation." Terada '150 at column 2, lines 10-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 with

Terada '150 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 18; Mizuki '675 discloses a print job management system comprising

multiple print job creation apparatuses and a job management apparatus, which are connected via

a network, each of said multiple print job creation apparatuses comprising: an information

storage module that stores information (*"data storing means for temporarily storing data*

associated with a first job currently being dealt with..." column 2, lines 1-2); an interruption

process module that, in response to an interruption command received in the middle of creation

of a print job, stores the print job in the middle of its creation as a print job under creation into

said information storage module and makes ready for creation of a new print job ("...*the*

interruption control means, in response to the reception of the interruption request, halts the first

job currently being dealt with. Then, the interruption function control means stores necessary

data associated with the first job currently being dealt with in the data storing means. Then,

after the second job associated with the interruption request has been finished, the interruption

function control means again reads the data associated with the first job, which data was stored

in the data storing means at the time of the receipt of the interruption request. Then, the read

data is used for carrying out the first job which was dealt before the reception of the interruption request." column 2, lines 11-22).

Mizuki '675 does not expressly discloses 1) a resumption process module that, in response to a resumption command to resume interrupted creation of a print job under creation, reads the print job under creation from said information storage module and resumes an original state when the interruption command was received, so as to make ready for continuing creation of the print job under creation; 2) a transmission process module that, in response to a transmission instruction including transmission destination information and specification of a print job under creation, sends the specified print job under creation as a job file in a predetermined format and the transmission destination information to said job management apparatus; 3) a reception process module that receives a job file sent from said job management apparatus, inputs a print job under creation from the received job file, and stores the input print job under creation into said information storage module, said job management apparatus comprising: an information storage module that stores information; 4) a job file reception module that receives a job file with transmission destination information sent from one of said multiple print job creation apparatuses and stores the received job file in relation to the transmission destination information into said information storage module; and 5) job file transmission module that sends a job file stored in said information storage module to a print job creation apparatus, which is specified as a transmission destination by transmission destination information stored in relation to the job file, at a preset timing.

Suzuki '863 discloses 1) a resumption process module that, in response to a resumption command to resume interrupted creation of a print job under creation, reads the print job under

creation from said information storage module and resumes an original state when the

interruption command was received, so as to make ready for continuing creation of the print job

under creation ("...*there is provided a job processing device which sequentially executes jobs*

for which processing requests were accepted, the job processing device comprising: first

queuing means for sequentially storing jobs for which processing requests were accepted;

second queuing means for sequentially storing jobs whose processing is to be interrupted from

among the jobs stored in the first queuing means; queue control means which moves the job

stored in the first queuing means from the first queuing means to the second queuing means in

response to a job processing interruption request and moves the jobs stored in the second

queuing means from the second queuing means to the first queuing means in response to a job

resumption request; and job execution means for sequentially executing the jobs stored in the

first queuing means." page 6, paragraph 0059); 2) a transmission process module that, in

response to a transmission instruction including transmission destination information and

specification of a print job under creation, sends the specified print job under creation as a job

file in a predetermined format and the transmission destination information to said job

management apparatus ("*The job scheduling section 312 is a processing section which issues a*

job execution instruction to the job execution section control section 313 via a transmission

processing section 312c, and also executes the queuing of a job using a queue management

section 312d." page 27, paragraph 0370); 3) a reception process module that receives a job file

sent from said job management apparatus, inputs a print job under creation from the received job

file, and stores the input print job under creation into said information storage module, said job

management apparatus comprising: an information storage module that stores information ("*As*

shown in FIGS. 30b and 30c, the data 280 received by the print processing device is divided into

an attribute data item 280a and a document data item 280b. The document data item 280b is

stored in the spool of the job acceptance section 201, whilst the attribute data item 280a is stored

in the object file 209 after a file path name of a spool of each document data has been added to

it." page 25, paragraph 0330); 4) a job file reception module that receives a job file with

transmission destination information sent from one of said multiple print job creation apparatuses

and stores the received job file in relation to the transmission destination information into said

information storage module (*"As shown in FIGS. 30b and 30c, the data 280 received by the print*

processing device is divided into an attribute data item 280a and a document data item 280b.

The document data item 280b is stored in the spool of the job acceptance section 201, whilst the

attribute data item 280a is stored in the object file 209 after a file path name of a spool of each

document data has been added to it." page 25, paragraph 0330); and 5) a job file transmission

module that sends a job file stored in said information storage module to a print job creation

apparatus, which is specified as a transmission destination by transmission destination

information stored in relation to the job file, at a preset timing (*"The job scheduling section 312*

is a processing section which issues a job execution instruction to the job execution section

control section 313 via a transmission processing section 312c, and also executes the queuing of

a job using a queue management section 312d. It is possible to make such a job request include a

pause command and a resumption command. When the pause command is received, a command

processing section (hereinafter referred to as a pausing section 312e) for the pause command is

activated. On the other hand, when the resumption command is received, a command processing

section (hereinafter referred to as a resuming section 312f) for the resumption command is activated." page 27, paragraph 0370).

Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"...object of the present invention is to provide a job scheduling device capable of easily modifying attribute information by reducing a user's burden, a drop in the efficiency of use of a network, and print waiting time even if the attribute information is erroneously specified."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0059).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675 by adding 1) a resumption process module that, in response to a resumption command to resume interrupted creation of a print job under creation, reads the print job under creation from said information storage module and resumes an original state when the interruption command was received, so as to make ready for continuing creation of the print job under creation; 2) a transmission process module that, in response to a transmission instruction including transmission destination information and specification of a print job under creation, sends the specified print job under creation as a job file in a predetermined format and the transmission destination information to said job management apparatus; 3) a reception process module that receives a job file sent from said job management apparatus, inputs a print job under creation from the received job file, and stores the input print job under creation into said information storage module, said job management apparatus comprising: an information storage module that stores information; 4) a job file reception module that receives a job file with transmission destination information sent from one of said multiple print job creation apparatuses and stores the received job file in

relation to the transmission destination information into said information storage module; and 5)

job file transmission module that sends a job file stored in said information storage module to a

print job creation apparatus, which is specified as a transmission destination by transmission

destination information stored in relation to the job file, at a preset timing as taught by Suzuki

'863.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a job processing system

designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without

obstructing job control such as a processing start wait (*"...to provide a job processing system

designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without

obstructing job control such as a processing start wait."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph

0043).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675 with Suzuki '863 to

obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 does not expressly disclose a duplication process module

that, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of a print job under creation,

duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a

new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new

print job under creation into said information storage module.

Terada '150 discloses a duplication process module that, in response to a duplication

instruction with specification of a print job under creation, duplicates a registered image

corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a new print job under creation at a

stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said

information storage module (*"...the printer 4 reports the information on the guarantee range against an inquiry from the installation tool 60, thus a continued installation becomes possible. The printer according to the present invention functions printing data onto a print medium, the media can be one of separate form, continuous form or duplication form. Further, as storage 22 for storing the printer firmware, it is possible to use non-volatile storage equipment other than the hard disk, such as a flash memory. In regard to the check data, it is also possible to apply other block data check schemes than the above-mentioned sum check scheme. Moreover, the check data for checking the guarantee range of the received firmware may also be used for the reception completion check."* column 15, lines 8-21).

Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 are combinable with Terada '150 because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"The present invention relates to a printer and a printer system to which firmware is installed in network environment..."* Terada '150 at column 1, lines 8-10).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 by adding a duplication process module that, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of a print job under creation, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified print job under creation, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module as taught by Terada '150.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a printer system and a method for installing a printer firmware automatically even though an operator does not recognize the

installation (*"It is another object of the present invention to provide a printer, a printer system
and a method for installing a printer firmware automatically even though an operator does not
recognize the installation."* Terada '150 at column 2, lines 10-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 with
Terada '150 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

5.   **Claims 2 and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuki
'675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 as applied to claim1 above, and further in view of Yokoyama
(US 7,126,719 B2 hereinafter, Yokoyama '719).

Regarding claim 2; Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 as modified does not
expressly disclose a print job creation apparatus where each print job is created through multiple
steps including an image registration step, a template selection step, and a print instruction step

Yokoyama '719 discloses a print job creation apparatus where each print job is created
through multiple steps including an image registration step, a template selection step, and a print
instruction step (*"...the fact that the image data has been transmitted to the second and third
copiers is registered in a list beforehand. At step S106, abort is reported to the second and third
copiers on the basis of the list. More specifically, the first copier sends the second and third
copiers a command indicating that submission of the print job is to be aborted."* column 7, lines
27-33).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 are combinable with Yokoyama '719 because
they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"...The present invention*

relates to a printing job performed by a copier, etc., which executes print processing upon being connected to a network..." Yokoyama '719 at column 1, lines 7-9).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 by adding a print job creation apparatus where each print job is created through multiple steps including an image registration step, a template selection step, and a print instruction step as taught by Yokoyama '719.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a print processing method having a high operating efficiency (*"...to provide a print processing method having a high operating efficiency..."* Yokoyama '719 at column 1, lines 40-42).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 with Yokoyama '719 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 21; Yokoyama '719 discloses a print job management system where each of said multiple print job creation apparatuses creates each print job through multiple steps including an image registration step, a template selection step, and a print instruction step, and said transmission process module included in said each print job creation apparatus sends a print job under creation at a stage after the template selection step to said job management apparatus (*"...the fact that the image data has been transmitted to the second and third copiers is registered in a list beforehand. At step S106, abort is reported to the second and third copiers on the basis of the list. More specifically, the first copier sends the second and third copiers a command indicating that submission of the print job is to be aborted."* column 7, lines 27-33).

6.   **Claim 3 & 9** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuki '675,

Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view

of Suzuki '863.

Regarding claim 3; Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 as

modified does not expressly disclose a print job creation apparatus where the multiple steps

further include a layout editing step between the template selection step and the print instruction

step.

Suzuki '863 discloses a print job creation apparatus where the multiple steps further

include a layout editing step between the template selection step and the print instruction step

(*"The hold queue q2 queues job information of unscheduled job, and the user can edit job

information retained in the hold queue q2. The job information retained in this hold queue q2

stays in this queue until the user issues an instruction, and the information is moved to the spool

queue q1, the printer queue q5, or the printer queue q6 in response to the user's instruction."*

page 30, paragraphs 0423-0424).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 are combinable with Suzuki

'863 because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"...object of the

present invention is to provide a job scheduling device capable of easily modifying attribute

information by reducing a user's burden, a drop in the efficiency of use of a network, and print

waiting time even if the attribute information is erroneously specified."* Suzuki '863 at page 4,

paragraph 0059).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 by adding a print job creation apparatus where the multiple steps further include a layout editing step between the template selection step and the print instruction step as taught by Suzuki '863.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait (*"...to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0043).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 with Suzuki '863 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 9; Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 discloses a print job creation apparatus wherein each print job is created through multiple steps including an image registration step, a template selection step, and a print instruction step (*"...the fact that the image data has been transmitted to the second and third copiers is registered in a list beforehand. At step S106, abort is reported to the second and third copiers on the basis of the list. More specifically, the first copier sends the second and third copiers a command indicating that submission of the print job is to be aborted."* Yokoyama '719 at column 7, lines 27-33).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 as modified does not expressly disclose a job file output module outputs a print job under creation, which is at a stage after the template selection step, as a job file.

Suzuki '863 discloses a job file output module outputs a print job under creation, which is at a stage after the template selection step, as a job file (*"As shown in FIG. 43, upon receipt of a job output from the terminal 411a or 411b via the network 410 (step S4201), the request control section 412a checks whether or not a job ID, which will be described later, is set to the job (step S4202). If the job ID is set to the job, job information is obtained from this job ID (step S4203), and then it is checked whether or not the accepted document is the final document (step S4204)."* page 30, paragraphs 0435).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 are combinable with Suzuki '863 because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"...object of the present invention is to provide a job scheduling device capable of easily modifying attribute information by reducing a user's burden, a drop in the efficiency of use of a network, and print waiting time even if the attribute information is erroneously specified."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0059).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 by adding a job file output module outputs a print job under creation, which is at a stage after the template selection step, as a job file as taught by Suzuki '863.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait (*"...to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0043).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863, Terada '150 and Yokoyama '719 with Suzuki '863 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

7.   **Claim 4-8, 10, 11, 19 & 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Suzuki '863.

Regarding claim 4; Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 as modified does not expressly disclose a print job creation apparatus where said print job creation apparatus further comprising: a job display module that displays a list of print jobs under creation.

Suzuki '863 discloses a print job creation apparatus where said print job creation apparatus further comprising: a job display module that displays a list of print jobs under creation (*"The hold queue q2 queues job information of unscheduled job, and the user can edit job information retained in the hold queue q2. The job information retained in this hold queue q2 stays in this queue until the user issues an instruction, and the information is moved to the spool queue q1, the printer queue q5, or the printer queue q6 in response to the user's instruction."* page 30, paragraphs 0423-0424).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 are combinable with Suzuki '863 because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"...object of the present invention is to provide a job scheduling device capable of easily modifying attribute information by reducing a user's burden, a drop in the efficiency of use of a network, and print waiting time even if the attribute information is erroneously specified."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0059).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 by adding a print job creation apparatus where said print job creation apparatus further comprises: a job display module that displays a list of print jobs under creation as taught by Suzuki '863.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait (*"...to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0043).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 with Suzuki '863 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 5; Suzuki '863 discloses a print job creation apparatus where said job display module displays details of each print job under creation (*"The hold queue q2 queues job information of unscheduled job, and the user can edit job information retained in the hold queue*

q2. The job information retained in this hold queue q2 stays in this queue until the user issues

an instruction, and the information is moved to the spool queue q1, the printer queue q5, or the

printer queue q6 in response to the user's instruction. " page 30, paragraphs 0423-0424).

Regarding claim 6; Suzuki '863 discloses a print job creation apparatus where said print

job creation apparatus further comprising: a comment input module that enters a comment as a

piece of information regarding each print job under creation, wherein said job display module

displays the comment on the print job under creation (*"The hold queue q2 queues job*

information of unscheduled job, and the user can edit job information retained in the hold queue

q2. The job information retained in this hold queue q2 stays in this queue until the user issues

an instruction, and the information is moved to the spool queue q1, the printer queue q5, or the

printer queue q6 in response to the user's instruction. " page 30, paragraphs 0423-0424).

Regarding claim 7; Suzuki '863 discloses a print job creation where said job display

module receives the resumption command (*"The pause queue q4 queues job information of a job*

which the user instructs to pause, and the job information retained in this pause queue q4 is

retained in this queue until the user instructs the resumption of the job. When the user instructs

the resumption of the job, the job information is moved to an assigned printer queue. " page 30,

paragraphs 0426).

Regarding claim 8; Suzuki '863 discloses a print job creation apparatus where said print

job creation apparatus further comprising: a job file output module that, in response to an output

instruction including specification of a print job under creation, outputs the specified print job

under creation as a job file in a predetermined format (*"As shown in FIG. 43, upon receipt of a*

job output from the terminal 411a or 411b via the network 410 (step S4201), the request control section 412a checks whether or not a job ID, which will be described later, is set to the job (step S4202). If the job ID is set to the job, job information is obtained from this job ID (step S4203), and then it is checked whether or not the accepted document is the final document (step S4204)." page 30, paragraphs 0435).

Regarding claim 10; Suzuki '863 a print job creation apparatus where said print job creation apparatus further comprising: a job input module that, in response to a job input instruction including specification of a job file, inputs a print job under creation from the specified job file and stores the input print job under creation into said information storage module (*"The job control elementary section 310 is a processing section which executes command processing in response to an input command, scheduling or queuing corresponding to a job processing request, and the issue of a job processing request to the job execution section 304. This job control elementary section 310 effects the pausing and resumption of job processing. The event processing section 310a processes an event occurred in the job control section 303, and notifies the management section 320 of the event through the management I/O control section 302a. The logging processing section 310b stores the contents of processing of the event processing section 310a as a history into the log file 306."* page 26, paragraphs 0366).

Regarding claim 11; Suzuki '863 discloses a print job creation apparatus where each print job is created by selecting one print service among multiple print services (*"Subsequently, the job scheduling section 15 selects a printer which is suitable for processing in the job execution section 13…"* page 10, paragraphs 0144).

Regarding claim 19; Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 as modified does not expressly disclose a print job management system where the preset timing is an output timing of a transmission request of a job file from any one of said multiple print job creation apparatuses via the network, and said job file transmission module included in said job management apparatus extracts a job file stored in said information storage module in relation to transmission destination information, which specifies said print job creation apparatus of the request sender as the transmission destination, and sends the extracted job file to said print job creation apparatus of the request sender.

Suzuki '863 discloses a print job management system where the preset timing is an output timing of a transmission request of a job file from any one of said multiple print job creation apparatuses via the network, and said job file transmission module included in said job management apparatus extracts a job file stored in said information storage module in relation to transmission destination information, which specifies said print job creation apparatus of the request sender as the transmission destination, and sends the extracted job file to said print job creation apparatus of the request sender (*"When received a job request via the request/acknowledgement acceptance section 312a, the job scheduling section 312 executes the processing of a command by activating a command processing section 3012b corresponding to a command included in the job request. The job scheduling section 312 is a processing section which issues a job execution instruction to the job execution section control section 313 via a transmission processing section 312c, and also executes the queuing of a job using a queue management section 312d. It is possible to make such a job request include a pause command and a resumption command. When the pause command is received, a command processing*

section (hereinafter referred to as a pausing section 312e) for the pause command is activated. On the other hand, when the resumption command is received, a command processing section (hereinafter referred to as a resuming section 312f) for the resumption command is activated. The queue management section 312d manages a printer queue 312g and a pause queue 312h. The printer queue 312g is provided corresponding to a printer so as to queue job information of jobs waiting for printing. A job assigned to each printer is queued in a corresponding printer queue. In other words, the printer queue 312g is provided corresponding to physical printers included in the job execution section 313. A pause queue 312h queues jobs paused according to a user's instruction. Jobs held in the pause queue 312h are retained in this queue until a resumption instruction is issued by the user. When the user issues the resumption instruction, the job information will be moved to the assigned printer." page 27, paragraph 0370-0371).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 are combinable with Suzuki '863 because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"...object of the present invention is to provide a job scheduling device capable of easily modifying attribute information by reducing a user's burden, a drop in the efficiency of use of a network, and print waiting time even if the attribute information is erroneously specified."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0059).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 by a print job management system where the preset timing is an output timing of a transmission request of a job file from any one of said multiple print job creation apparatuses via the network, and said job file transmission module included in said job management apparatus

extracts a job file stored in said information storage module in relation to transmission destination information, which specifies said print job creation apparatus of the request sender as the transmission destination, and sends the extracted job file to said print job creation apparatus of the request sender as taught by Suzuki '863.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait (*"...to provide a job processing system designed so as to be able to continuously output document processing requests without obstructing job control such as a processing start wait."* Suzuki '863 at page 4, paragraph 0043).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 with Suzuki '863 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

Regarding claim 20; Suzuki '863 discloses a print job management system where said transmission process module included in each of said print job creation apparatuses receives a comment and sends a job file with the received comment to said job management apparatus (*"When received a job request via the request/acknowledgement acceptance section 312a, the job scheduling section 312 executes the processing of a command by activating a command processing section 3012b corresponding to a command included in the job request. The job scheduling section 312 is a processing section which issues a job execution instruction to the job execution section control section 313 via a transmission processing section 312c, and also executes the queuing of a job using a queue management section 312d. It is possible to make such a job request include a pause command and a resumption command. When the pause*

command is received, a command processing section (hereinafter referred to as a pausing section 312e) for the pause command is activated. On the other hand, when the resumption command is received, a command processing section (hereinafter referred to as a resuming section 312f) for the resumption command is activated." page 27, paragraph 0370).

8.   **Claim 12** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shiota et al. (US 6,324,521 B1 hereinafter, Shiota '521).

Regarding claim 12; Mizuki '675 and Suzuki '863 does not expressly disclose a print job creation apparatus where the multiple print services include at least one of an enlargement printing service, a digest printing service, a calendar printing service, a postcard printing service, a photo name card printing service, an ID photograph printing service, a seal printing service, a label printing service, and an album printing service.

Shiota '521 discloses a print job creation apparatus where the multiple print services include at least one of an enlargement printing service, a digest printing service, a calendar printing service, a postcard printing service, a photo name card printing service, an ID photograph printing service, a seal printing service, a label printing service, and an album printing service ("*...when the printing service requested by the order needs special equipment to provide the service, such as generation of a picture postcard or a creative calendar.*" column 3, lines 8-11).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 are combinable with Shiota '521 because they are from same field of endeavor of network systems (*"The present invention relates to a network photograph service system which provides a customer with a photograph service via a network..."* Shiota '521 at column 1, lines 7-9).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network systems as taught by Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 by adding a print job creation apparatus where the multiple print services include at least one of an enlargement printing service, a digest printing service, a calendar printing service, a postcard printing service, a photo name card printing service, an ID photograph printing service, a seal printing service, a label printing service, and an album printing service as taught by Shiota '521.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a network photograph service system which can provide a prompt service to a customer (*"...to provide a network photograph service system which can provide a prompt service to a customer without losing the advantage of a network photograph service system such as easier understanding where to access and collective data management."* Shiota '521 at column 1, lines 56-61).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 with Shiota '521 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

9.   **Claims 14 & 15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Terada '150.

Regarding claim 14; Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 does not expressly disclose a print job creation apparatus where said print job creation apparatus further comprising: an execution process module that, in response to an execution instruction with specification of a created print job, stores the contents of the specified print job as an executed print job into said information storage module, wherein said duplication process module, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of an executed print job, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified executed print job, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module.

Terada '150 discloses a print job creation apparatus where said print job creation apparatus further comprising: an execution process module that, in response to an execution instruction with specification of a created print job, stores the contents of the specified print job as an executed print job into said information storage module, wherein said duplication process module, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of an executed print job, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified executed print job, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module (*"...the printer 4 reports the information on the guarantee range against an inquiry from the installation tool 60, thus a continued installation becomes possible. The printer according to the present invention functions printing data onto a print medium, the media can be one of separate form, continuous form or duplication form. Further, as storage 22 for storing the printer firmware, it is possible to use non-volatile storage equipment other than the hard disk, such as a flash memory. In regard to the check data,*

it is also possible to apply other block data check schemes than the above-mentioned sum check scheme. Moreover, the check data for checking the guarantee range of the received firmware may also be used for the reception completion check." column 15, lines 8-21).

Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 are combinable with Terada '150 because they are from same field of endeavor of network printer systems (*"The present invention relates to a printer and a printer system to which firmware is installed in network environment..."* Terada '150 at column 1, lines 8-10).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the network printer systems as taught by Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada '150 by adding a print job creation apparatus where said print job creation apparatus further comprising: an execution process module that, in response to an execution instruction with specification of a created print job, stores the contents of the specified print job as an executed print job into said information storage module, wherein said duplication process module, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of an executed print job, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified executed print job, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module as taught by Terada '150.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a printer system and a method for installing a printer firmware automatically even though an operator does not recognize the installation (*"It is another object of the present invention to provide a printer, a printer system and a method for installing a printer firmware automatically even though an operator does not recognize the installation."* Terada '150 at column 2, lines 10-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mizuki '675, Suzuki '863 and Terada
'150 with Terada '150 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 15; Terada '150 discloses a print job creation apparatus where said
duplication process module creates a new print job under creation with respect to a different print
service, which is different from a selected print service in the specified print job under creation
or executed print job, and stores the new print job under creation with respect to the different
print service into said information storage module (*"The printer according to the present
invention functions printing data onto a print medium, the media can be one of separate form,
continuous form or duplication form. Further, as storage 22 for storing the printer firmware, it
is possible to use non-volatile storage equipment other than the hard disk, such as a flash
memory. In regard to the check data, it is also possible to apply other block data check schemes
than the above-mentioned sum check scheme. Moreover, the check data for checking the
guarantee range of the received firmware may also be used for the reception completion check."*
column 15, lines 11-21).

Regarding claim 17; Terada '150 discloses a print job creation apparatus where said
print job creation apparatus further comprising: an execution process module that, in response to
an execution instruction with specification of a created print job, stores the contents of the
specified print job as an executed print job into said information storage module, wherein said
duplication process module, in response to a duplication instruction with specification of an
executed print job, duplicates a registered image corresponding to the specified executed print
job, creates a new print job under creation at a stage of registering the duplicated image, and
stores the new print job under creation into said information storage module (*"...the printer 4*

reports the information on the guarantee range against an inquiry from the installation tool 60,

thus a continued installation becomes possible. The printer according to the present invention

functions printing data onto a print medium, the media can be one of separate form, continuous

form or duplication form. Further, as storage 22 for storing the printer firmware, it is possible to

use non-volatile storage equipment other than the hard disk, such as a flash memory. In regard

to the check data, it is also possible to apply other block data check schemes than the above-

mentioned sum check scheme. Moreover, the check data for checking the guarantee range of the

received firmware may also be used for the reception completion check." column 15, lines 8-21).

Conclusion

10.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action.   Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**.   See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

        A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.   In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action.   In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this

final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARCUS T. RILEY whose telephone number is (571)270-1581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30-5:00, est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler L. Haskins can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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